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Yellow fever at Progreso.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D. C., July 26, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to apprise you of the receipt of a telegram from Edward H. Thompson, consul of the United States at Merida (Progreso), Mexico, dated July 25, which reads as follows:

Steamship *Transit* clears to-day, Mobile; of the 2 cases yellow fever reported in dispatch, 1 dead, 1 convalescent. No new cases in my district.

Respectfully, yours,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Yellow fever condition at Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, July 20, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the week ended to-day (20th) shows a decided improvement in the fever situation. For the week there have been 40 new cases and 17 deaths, a decrease of 30 per cent from the week before. The mortality in the early part of the epidemic was more than 70 per cent of the cases reported, and as the fever advanced the percentage diminished, June having a fraction over 40 per cent, but during the past three weeks the percentage has reached 43 per cent and a fraction.

The shipping continues free from infection. Two cases were brought ashore from one of the dredges that is working within a stone's throw of many of the vessels. This dredge has been infected for some time, and I have asked the quarantine officer to have her disinfected and fumigated as a precautionary measure. I was assured that it would be done immediately.

There have been a number of cases of dysentery in the shipping, and upon investigation it was determined that it was caused by the fresh meat furnished from shore. Some vessels used condensed water, others had a drinking supply from English and United States ports, while others used the water from Vera Cruz, and rain water. The variety of sources of the water excluded that as a cause, and the only thing that was common to all the sick was the beef. I have heard no complaints from that source ashore, so I think that the change from the salt to the fresh meat was the cause. The cases were quickly cured with a dose of oil followed up with an opiate.

Dr. Del Rio, an expert, who is a member of the Vera Cruz quarantine board, and who has just returned from the Isthmus, where he has been investigating the fever situation, reports that there is no epidemic in that locality; the 2 cases that existed were brought from Vera Cruz.

Respectfully, yours,

SAML. H. HODGSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

PERSIA.

Report of plague at Bushire, Persia, and Bassorah, Turkey.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Teheran, Persia, June 19, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a communication I have just this moment received from the Persian ministry of foreign affairs regarding the public health of Bushire.